



# Advent

28 DAILY DEVOTIONS LEADING UP TO CHRISTMAS

# Day 1



## READ JEREMIAH 33:14-16

*God reminds His people of His promise to send a Savior throughout the Old Testament, through prophets like Jeremiah. As Advent begins, remember why Jesus' arrival to Earth was necessary. He came to restore what sin destroyed. He came to heal our brokenness. Jesus came to bring hope to all people and to **BE Hope** for all people! We have a hope through Jesus that is unshakable, and says that God doesn't leave His people.*

### **Connection Question:**

*How does this give you hope in your current circumstances?*

# Day 2



## READ ISAIAH 9:1-7

*Israel, God's original and chosen people, were in grim circumstances. God speaks through the prophet Isaiah to tell Israel a Messiah is coming who will redeem everything. A Savior. Jesus. Isaiah uses four titles to describe Jesus' role and character: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. As they wait God asks them (and us) to trust in who He says He is.*

### **Connection Question:**

*Of the four names Isaiah uses to describe Jesus, which one gives you the most hope today? Why?*

# Day 3



## READ LUKE 1:57-80

*God had a special purpose for John's life. John was filled with the Holy Spirit so he could preach repentance and help prepare people's hearts to hear from Jesus. John's role wasn't always the most glamorous (Matthew 3:4 says he wore animal skins & ate bugs). But without John's preparation, the world wouldn't have been ready for the message Jesus came to share. The same way John prepared people to hear Jesus' message, Advent prepares our hearts to celebrate Jesus' birth.*

### **Connection Question:**

*How can you make room to become more aware of His peaceful presence with you?*

# Day 4



## READ LUKE 1:26-38

*Big news was the angel Gabriel's business. He had been tasked by God to deliver important messages and this message was perhaps the biggest news yet. Mary would give birth to a baby boy, the long-promised Messiah. The moment that generations had waited for was finally here: The Lord was coming to save His people. Gabriel knew that she'd have questions, but even through her questions Mary resolved to trust.*

### **Connection Question:**

*Every family faces events that redirect plans. How can you have Mary's response, to hope & trust that God will be with you?*

# Day 5



## READ MATTHEW 1:18-25

*Like Joseph, we will face decisions that challenge our faith. We'll find ourselves in situations where obeying God will make us look crazy. What's easy is not always right. And what's right is not always easy. When we ask God to show us the way, He does. Sometimes he affirms what we're already thinking. But other times, as He did with Joseph, God leads us to a faith-filled option we never knew was possible.*

### **Connection Question:**

*What decisions are you facing this week that will require greater faith? Take some time to pray and ask God what He would have you do.*

# Day 6



## READ LUKE 1:39-45

*Through Elizabeth, God reassured Mary that her radical faith was in the right place. If your circumstances are less than merry this Christmas, remember Mary's story. Remember that God is always at work, and His plan for you is good. No matter how bleak your circumstances, God has not deserted you. He is bigger than our understanding, and He loves us more than we can fathom (Isaiah 55:9). That truth alone gives us a reason to celebrate.*

### **Connection Question:**

*What is one practical way you can remind yourself of God's love and hope for your future?*

# Day 7



## READ ROMANS 15:12-13

*Hope is the first theme of Advent we've explored so far. Did you know the word Hope in Hebrew means to "wait with anticipation?" Romans says that God Himself is the source of hope. He is the one who gives us the hope we need and search for in all of life's circumstances. As we wait on God, the Hope of the World, we in turn are filled with confident hope, joy, and peace. And that is what Advent is all about - waiting with a hopeful anticipation on God.*

### **Connection Question:**

*How can you place your hope in Jesus today? How will you choose to trust Him?*



# Day 8



## READ JOHN 1:1-5,14

*When John writes about "The Word," he is getting ready to tell the amazing story of Jesus. Jesus, the all-powerful God, became flesh and came to dwell with us. The word "dwelt" means to pitch a tent. In the Old Testament, God's presence stayed in a physical tent called the "tent of meeting" but now He was going to dwell with His people as an actual human. Before returning back to Heaven, He promises us in Matthew 28:20, "I am with you always." God still dwells with us even today.*

### **Connection Question:**

*How does Jesus coming to earth show his love for his people?*

# Day 9



## READ LUKE 2:1-7, 2 CORINTHIANS 5:1-7

*The long road to Bethlehem would have been difficult for Mary who was due any day. But this road trip was a part of Joseph & Mary's faith journey. It's the place where they learned to walk by faith and not by sight. All of us will face moments when the road seems too long and the cost too high. Faith is believing God's sight is better than ours. It's trusting that all things - even a long, arduous journey - are for His glory and our good.*

### **Connection Question:**

*What are you hoping for in the coming year? How is God asking you to have faith?*

# Day 10



## **READ ISAIAH 7:10-14, MATTHEW 1:23**

*Jesus is "Immanuel" or "God with us." Reminders of Jesus' birth are everywhere this time of year - in Christmas carols, church nativities, TV specials, and family traditions. But how many of us woke up today with the confidence that God is with us? Because God is with you, you can never be separated from His love. You can live with joy and peace, and without fear, worry, and dissatisfaction.*

### **Connection Question:**

*How will you approach this Christmas differently, knowing God is with you?*

# Day 11



## READ LUKE 2:8-15

*Why a dramatic visit from angelic messengers? Because the people of Israel in those days had not heard a prophetic voice for hundreds of years. But the time had come! Jesus, the promised rescuer, had arrived. The fact that the angel delivered this news to a group of shepherds shows the kind of King Jesus would be. His kingdom wasn't reserved for the wealthy or religious elite. His kingdom is open to anyone humble enough to submit themselves to Him.*

### **Connection Question:**

*Like the Shepherds, who can you share the Good News with this Christmas?*

# Day 12



## READ LUKE 2:16-21

*From the many prophecies to Israel, to the promise made to Mary & Joseph and even to the shepherds in the field, God kept every promise, and the glorious night was finally here. Christ was born! But it happened on an ordinary night, in less than desirable circumstances. A poor family, a dirty manger. Yet everyone was in awe. The circumstances faded away as they realized that God Himself had come to them right where they were.*

### Connection Question:

*What do you think Mary and the shepherds were thinking in their hearts as Christ was finally born, right in their midst?*

# Day 13



## READ MATTHEW 2:1-12

*The extravagant gifts from the wise men would have helped Joseph & Mary to provide food & other necessities for their family. However, the gift that God delighted in most was not the gold, frankincense, or myrrh, but their gift of genuine, humble worship. Seeing these dignitaries fall on their knees to worship Jesus must have been a remarkable sight for Mary and Joseph. They were in awe and immediately began worshipping the King of Kings, the King of the Jews!*

### **Connection Question:**

*How can you genuinely worship Jesus this Christmas instead of focusing on gifts?*

# Day 14



## READ MATTHEW 2:13-15

*Joseph's obedience to God saved Jesus' life from King Herod. God had every detail worked out to bring His son into the world so that He could live among us and restore our relationship with God. And He had asked Joseph & Mary to trust those details even when they seemed impossible or scary. Joseph had learned to trust God and from his trust - came His obedience.*

### **Connection Question:**

*What is God asking you to obey Him in? Why can you trust Him in that?*

# Day 15



## READ LUKE 2:25-38

*Simeon praised God for allowing him to see the promised Savior, then goes on to tell who this child is and how He will affect us. When we see Jesus as our savior, our perspective on Christmas changes. Buying presents becomes a reminder of God's blessing instead of a burden. The hustle and bustle around Christmas make it easy to forget why we're celebrating. But when Jesus is at the center of our lives, everything becomes an act of worship.*

### **Connection Question:**

*What's one way you can make Jesus the center of your life?*



# Day 17



## READ PSALM 19:1-6

*Do you ever notice how the light of the sun brings you joy? Just as God's mercies are new every morning, every day the sun rises around the world like clockwork. Day after day the light of the sun and skies proclaim God's glory and faithfulness. And just as the sun rises, bringing us joy, may we celebrate Christmas as a reminder that the Light of the world has come to us to rescue us from the darkness of sin.*

### **Connection Question:**

*How can you "listen" to the sky proclaiming His handiwork?*

# Day 16



## **READ ISAIAH 52:7-10, ROMANS 10:8-15**

*In Isaiah's day, messengers carried news from town to town. You can imagine the anticipation and excitement building as the messenger gets closer. What will he say? When we share the good news of the Gospel, we are like that messenger. We aren't asking people to give more or do more. We get to be the ones delivering the news, "Salvation is here!". What better time than now, during the celebration of His birth, to share the hope Jesus brings.*

### **Connection Question:**

*What about the good news of Jesus brings you joy? How can you share that joy?*

# Day 19



## READ JOB 1:20-22, 38:1-13

*In one dreadful day, Job lost everything and he wrestles with the question “why?” This is what suffering often does; it covers the light that gives vibrance and meaning to our lives. And yet even in the darkness of our trails God is faithful, and the sun does rise again on the life of the believer. Both the dark and the dawn are under His mighty hand. God redeems all things for His glory. And the sun still rises because God is still doing the work of redemption.*

### **Connection Question:**

*How does Job's redemption in Job 42:10-17 give you hope?*

# Day 18



## **READ JOHN 8:12, MATTHEW 4:16**

*All throughout Scripture, we see Jesus as the beautiful picture and symbol of light. The Bible is clear that those who put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior will not walk in darkness. As His followers, we can rest in knowing that Jesus brings His light into the lives of those who have surrendered to Him. When we give our lives to Christ, we walk in His light and not in the darkness of the world.*

### **Connection Question:**

*What is one way that you can be a light to those around you this week?*

# Day 21



## READ TITUS 2:11-14

*This passage describes the first Advent of Jesus Christ. The word for "appeared" is epiphaino, meaning a "shining forth." It can also be written, "The grace of God has dawned upon the world." Jesus' birth was the dawning of the grace of God, the blessed hope and glorious appearance of our Savior! Praise the Lord for His arrival after years of anticipation and waiting. He is faithful!*

### **Connection Question:**

*How does Jesus' long awaited arrival bring you joy this Christmas?*

# Day 20



## READ COLOSSIANS 1:11-14

*There isn't a moment in history when the darkness has defeated the dawn. Light always comes after the night. Each day, we have a physical reminder of God's steady rhythm of grace through the light of the day and the darkness of night. Both point us to God's sure presence and faithful deliverance. He never leaves us alone to fight our battles in our own strength. Jesus is the Light that dawns after the dark and He is our hope and everlasting peace!*

### **Connection Question:**

*Remember God's faithfulness. How has He fought your battles before?*

# Day 23



## **READ PSALM 95:1-7**

*There's something beautiful about coming together and worshipping Jesus. Psalm 95 is an invitation to corporately worship God. In a world where our attention spans are limited and our time is pulled in dozens of directions, Psalms reminds us to focus our attention and adoration on the One who deserves it most: Christ. Let's not let the season of Advent pass us by without taking time to adore Jesus.*

### **Connection Question:**

*How can you practically make time to worship God this Advent?*

# Day 22



## READ ISAIAH 11:1-10

*Jesus is the King Isaiah describes. But this kingdom would be different than anything they, or we, have ever known. This King would ask people to follow Him, not demand obedience from them. He would draw people to Himself through love, not fear. Following THIS King would lead to more peace than anyone knew was possible.*

### **Connection Question:**

*How has following Jesus given you peace? How can you claim back your peace this season?*



# Day 25



**READ MATT 5:14, EPH 5:8, THES 5:5-8**

*Each year we gather to celebrate Christmas and then quickly resume our normal lives. But the birth of Jesus was just the beginning. He lived a sinless life, shone the light of the Gospel and exposed the darkness. He gave His life so that we could have eternal life with God. We pause to celebrate the Light of the World, but when Christmas passes we still get to live in His light, reflecting His goodness to the world around us!*

**Connection Question:**

*What do you learn about the children of God as the Light of the World in these scriptures?*

# Day 24



## **READ ISAIAH 61:1-9, LUKE 4:18-21**

*The sound of a Salvation Army bell ringing, a child's written wish hung on a Christmas tree, hot meals served to strangers on a cold day. The holidays bring many opportunities to serve others. When Jesus returned to heaven, His mission "to proclaim good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives" became ours to continue! We bless others because Jesus blesses us. As we do, His goodness becomes known among the nations.*

### **Connection Question:**

*What is one way you can be generous to those in need?*

# Day 27



## **READ JOHN 15:9-11**

*Christmas Day is about so much more than the miraculous birth of Christ. It's a celebration that God has been and will always be faithful to every single one of His promises. The sun rose this morning just like it did the day Jesus was born, and the sun will set in the same way. In this steady rhythm of God's grace, we have hope and live as a people who are eternally secure in Christ's work.*

### **Connection Question:**

*Jesus is with us! Take time to praise your savior, the dawn of redeeming grace!*

# Day 26



## **READ ISAIAH 60:19, REVELATION 22:5**

*There are still prophecies about Jesus that are yet to be fulfilled! One day, Jesus will come again to fully restore and redeem the earth. This is the "second Advent," and it's what we eagerly await every day. God will destroy Satan forever and darkness will be no more. As you celebrate Christmas in 2 days, set your heart on Jesus. Christmas Day isn't the end of the story- it's just the beginning!*

### **Connection Question:**

*How can the hope of the second Advent bring you peace today?*

# Day 28



## **READ ISAIAH 9:1-7**

*Advent reminds us that God has a grand plan for History and while we have a part to play, we are not the center of the story. It's HIS story. This season, don't allow the busyness of the noise around you cause you to miss the bigger thing God is doing. Advent can build our confidence in the promises of God. And when we fully know what He did during the first advent, we can live in confident hope until his second advent.*

### **Connection Question:**

*Putting Jesus at the center of your heart will not happen unintentionally. Make a personal decision to go all in this season. Ask God what that can look like for you!*